

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (currently amended): An electronic message management system
2 comprising:

3 a digest specification device that allows a user to obtain a plurality of
4 digests from an information stream comprising a plurality of candidate messages
5 by allowing the user to specify a set of one or more sender-independent message-
6 based rules for each digest, wherein each set of one or more sender-independent
7 message-based rules specifies one or more characteristics of the candidate
8 messages;

9 an information selection device that monitors the information stream and
10 selects one or more of the plurality of candidate messages in the information
11 stream that satisfy all of the rules in at least one of the sets of sender-independent
12 message-based rules for at least one of the plurality of digests; and

13 an electronic message management device that determines, for each of the
14 selected candidate messages, which of the plurality of digests corresponds to the
15 set of sender-independent message-based rules satisfied by the particular selected
16 candidate message, ~~[[and]]~~ that integrates each of the selected candidate messages
17 into their respective corresponding digests, and that determines and updates the
18 digest based on one or more of the sender-independent message-based rules that
19 specify characteristics of the digest.

1 2. (original): The system of claim 1, further comprising a digest
2 management device that delivers the digest to a predetermined destination upon
3 satisfaction of at least one of the one or more sender-independent message-based
4 rules.

1 3. (previously presented): The system of claim 1, further comprising
2 an information sampling device that delivers the selected candidate messages to a
3 predetermined destination based on one or more of the sender-independent
4 message-based rules.

1 4. (original): The system of claim 1, further comprising a rule
2 management device that manages the one or more sender-independent message-
3 based rules.

1 5. (original): The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more sender-
2 independent message-based rules include a Boolean comparison, a statistical-
3 based selection criteria, a fuzzy logic based selection criteria, a keyword based
4 selection criteria, a date, a subject, a recipient or a sender-based selection criteria.

1 6. (original): The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic message
2 is at least one of an e-mail, an electronic message from a mailing list and bulletin
3 board posting.

1 7. (currently amended): A method for managing electronic messages
2 comprising:
3 obtaining a plurality of digests from an information stream comprising a
4 plurality of candidate messages by allowing a user to specify a set of one or more
5 sender-independent message-based rules for each digest, wherein each set of one
6 or more sender-independent message-based rules specifies one or more
7 characteristics of the candidate messages;
8 monitoring the information stream;
9 selecting one or more of the plurality of candidate messages in the
10 information stream that satisfy all of the rules in at least one of the sets of sender-
11 independent message-based rules for at least one of the plurality of digests;
12 [[and]]

13 determining, for each of the selected candidate messages, which of the
14 plurality of digests corresponds to the set of sender-independent message-based
15 rules satisfied by the particular selected candidate message, and integrating each
16 of the selected candidate messages into their respective corresponding digests;
17 and
18 determining and updating the digest based on one or more of the sender-
19 independent message-based rules that specify characteristics of the digest.

1 8. (original): The method of claim 7, further comprising delivering
2 the digest to a predetermined destination upon satisfaction of at least one of the
3 one or more sender-independent message-based rules.

1 Claim 9 (cancelled).

1 10. (previously presented): The method of claim 7, further comprising
2 delivering selected candidate messages to a predetermined destination based on
3 one or more of the sender-independent message-based rules.

1 11. (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the one or more sender-
2 independent message-based rules include a Boolean comparison, a statistical-
3 based selection criteria, a fuzzy logic based selection criteria, a keyword based
4 selection criteria, a date, a subject, a recipient or a sender-based selection criteria.

1 12. (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the electronic message
2 is at least one of an e-mail, an electronic message from a mailing list and bulletin
3 board posting.

1 13. (currently amended): An information storage media comprising
2 information that manages electronic messages comprising:
3 information that obtains a plurality of digests from an information stream
4 comprising a plurality of candidate messages by allowing a user to specify a set of
5 one or more sender-independent message-based rules for each digest, wherein

6 each set of one or more sender-independent message-based rules specifies one or
7 more characteristics of the candidate messages;
8 information that monitors the information stream;
9 information that selects one or more of the plurality of candidate messages
10 in the information stream that satisfy all of the rules in at least one of the sets of
11 sender-independent message-based rules for at least one of the plurality of
12 digests; and
13 information that determines, for each of the selected candidate messages,
14 which of the plurality of digests corresponds to the set of sender-independent
15 message-based rules satisfied by the particular selected candidate message, and
16 integrates each of the selected candidate messages into their respective
17 corresponding digests; and
18 information that determines and updates the digest based on one or more
19 of the sender-independent message-based rules that specify characteristics of the
20 digest.

1 14. (original): The information storage media of claim 13, further
2 comprising information that deliver the digest to a predetermined destination upon
3 satisfaction of at least one of the one or more sender-independent message-based
4 rules.

1 Claim 15 (cancelled).

1 16. (previously presented): The information storage media of claim 13,
2 further comprising information that delivers the selected candidate messages to a
3 predetermined destination based on one or more of the sender-independent
4 message-based rules.

1 17. (original): The information storage media of claim 13, wherein the
2 one or more sender-independent message-based rules include a Boolean
3 comparison, a statistical-based selection criteria, a fuzzy logic based selection

4 criteria, a keyword based selection criteria, a date, a subject, a recipient or a
5 sender-based selection criteria.

1 18. (original): The information storage media of claim 13, wherein the
2 electronic message is at least one of an e-mail, an electronic message from a
3 mailing list and bulletin board posting.

1 19. (currently amended): An electronic message management system
2 comprising:

3 a digest specification system that allows a user to obtain a plurality of
4 digests from an information stream comprising a plurality of candidate messages
5 by allowing the user to specify a set of one or more sender-independent message-
6 based rules for each digest, wherein each set of one or more sender-independent
7 message-based rules specifies one or more characteristics of the candidate
8 messages;

9 a data selection system that monitors the information stream and identifies
10 one or more of the plurality of candidate messages in the information stream that
11 satisfy all of the rules in at least one of the sets of sender-independent message-
12 based rules for at least one of the plurality of digests; and

13 an electronic message management system functionally associated with
14 the data selection system, the electronic message management system adapted to
15 determine, for each of the identified candidate messages, which of the plurality of
16 digests corresponds to the set of sender-independent message-based rules satisfied
17 by the particular selected candidate message, [[and]] to integrate each of the
18 identified candidate message into their respective corresponding digests, and to
19 determine and update the digest based on one or more of the sender-independent
20 message-based rules that specify characteristics of the digest.

1 20. (currently amended): The electronic message management system
2 of claim 19, wherein the data selection system samples one or more of the

3 identified candidate messages which meet one or more supplemental selection
4 criteria.

1 21. (previously presented): The electronic message management
2 system of claim 1, wherein the electronic message management device selects one
3 or more of the candidate messages which meet one or more supplemental
4 selection criteria.

1 22. (currently amended): The method for managing electronic
2 messages of claim 7, further comprising selecting one or more of the candidate
3 messages which meet one or more supplemental selection criteria.

1 23. (currently amended): The information storage media of claim 13,
2 further comprising information that selects one or more of the candidate messages
3 which meet one or more supplemental selection criteria.

1 24. (new): The method of claim 7, further comprising managing the
2 one or more sender-independent message-based rules.

1 25. (new): The information storage media of claim 13, further
2 comprising information that manages the one or more sender-independent
3 message-based rules.